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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/009,932 01/21/98 TANAKA

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EXAMINER

VU, N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED:

10/03/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/009,932

Applicant(s)
Koichiro TANAKA et al.

Examiner
Ngoc-Yen VU

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2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 21, 1998

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are pending in the application

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13-16, 18-27, 30-33, 35-46, 49-52, 54-63, 66-69, 71, and 72 is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 12, 17, 28, 29, 34, 47, 48, 53, 64, 65, and 70 is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

20) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement, filed 04/20/1998, has been placed in the application file, and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 42 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 4, change "rightward tilt" to --rightward pan--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

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5. Claims 1-4, 9-10, 13-16, 18-21, 26-27, 30-33, 35-40, 45-46, 49-52, 54-57, 62-63, 66-69, and 72-73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cortjens et al. (US #5,568,183).

Regarding claim 1, Cortjens '183 teaches a camera control system (Fig. 1) comprising" display means (monitors 21A/21B) for displaying an image sensed by a camera, the displayed image corresponding to an image signal output from the camera (col. 5 line 30 - col. 6 line 46);

detection means (converters 11A/11B) for detecting a figure on a display surface on which the image is being displayed by said display means (col. 6 line 21 - col. 7 line 11; col. 8 line 28 - col. 10 line 14; col. 11 line 30 - col. 14 line 54; col. 14 line 55 - col. 18 line 47);

output means (controller 10) for outputting a command for controlling the camera on the basis of the figure detected by said detection means (col. 6 line 21 - col. 7 line 11; col. 8 line 28 - col. 10 line 14; col. 10 line 58 - col. 11 line 26; col. 14 line 55 - col. 18 line 47); and

control means for controlling the camera on the basis of the camera control command output from said output means (col. 6 line 21 - col. 7 line 11; col. 8 line 28 - col. 10 line 14; col. 14 line 55 - col. 18 line 47).

As to claim 2, Cortjens '183 teaches that said detection means further detects an action of depicting the figure on the display surface of said display means (col. 6 line 21 - col. 7 line 11; col. 8 line 28 - col. 10 line 14; col. 11 line 30 - col. 14 line 54; col. 14 line 55 - col. 18 line 47).

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As to claims 3-4, Cortjens ' 183 further teaches that said output means outputs a control command for at least one of pan control, tilt control, and zoom control of the camera (col. 6 line 21 - col. 7 line 11; col. 8 line 28 - col. 10 line 14; col. 10 line 58 - col. 11 line 26; col. 14 line 55 - col. 18 line 47).

As to claims 9-10, Cortjens '183 teaches that a depiction of an arrow on the display surface of said display means is detected by said detection means, then said output means outputs a control command for control of at least one of pan and tilt of the camera according to the direction of the detected arrow, wherein said output means determines a controlled amount of at least one of the pan and tilt of the camera according to a length of the detected arrow (col. 14 line 55 - col. 16 line 56).

As to claims 13-14, Cortjens '183 teaches that a depiction description of a substantially rectangular figure on the display surface of said display means is detected by said detection means, then said output means outputs a command for controlling a zoom ratio according to a size of the substantially rectangular figure detected, wherein if a depiction of a substantially rectangular figure on the display surface of said display means is detected by said detection means, then said output means further outputs a control command for performing at least one of pan and tilt of the camera such that an image displayed at a center of the substantially rectangular figure is positioned at a center of the display surface (col. 16 line 57 - col. 18 line 47).

As to claims 15-16, Cortjens '183 teaches that a depiction of a crisscross figure on the display surface of said display means is detected by said detection means, then said output means

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outputs a command for controlling a zoom ratio in the zoom-out direction according to a size of the crisscross figure detected, wherein said output means outputs a control command for performing at least one of pan and tilt of the camera such that an image displayed at a point of intersection of the two segments forming the crisscross figure is positioned at the center of the display surface (col. 16 line 57 - col. 18 line 47).

Regarding claim 18, Cortjens '183 teaches a camera control system (Fig. 1) comprising" display means (monitors 21A/21B) for displaying an image sensed by a camera, the displayed image corresponding to an image signal output from the camera (col. 5 line 30 - col. 6 line 46);

detection means (converters 11A/11B) for detecting a figure on a display surface on which the image is being displayed by said display means (col. 6 line 21 - col. 7 line 11; col. 8 line 28 - col. 10 line 14; col. 11 line 30 - col. 14 line 54; col. 14 line 55 - col. 18 line 47);

output means (controller 10) for outputting a command for controlling the camera on the basis of the figure detected by said detection means (col. 6 line 21 - col. 7 line 11; col. 8 line 28 - col. 10 line 14; col. 10 line 58 - col. 11 line 26; col. 14 line 55 - col. 18 line 47).

As to claim 19, the subject limitation in this claim can be found in claim 2.

As to claims 20-21, the subject limitation in these claims can be found in claims 3-4, respectively.

As to claims 26-27, the subject limitation in these claims can be found in claims 9-10, respectively.

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As to claims 30-31, the subject limitation in these claims can be found in claims 13-14, respectively.

As to claims 32-33, the subject limitation in these claims can be found in claims 15-16, respectively.

Regarding claims 35-40, they are method claims of the apparatus claims 18-21, respectively. Therefore, they are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to the apparatus claims 18-21.

Regarding claims 45-46, they are method claims of the apparatus claims 26-27, respectively. Therefore, they are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to the apparatus claims 26-27.

Regarding claims 49-52, they are method claims of the apparatus claims 30-33, respectively. Therefore, they are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to the apparatus claims 30-33.

Regarding claims 54-57, they are method claims of the apparatus claims 18-21, respectively. Therefore, they are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to the apparatus claims 18-21. It is noted that Cortjens teaches that the camera control system is a computer which can download programs stored in respective recording medium.

Regarding claims 62-63, they are method claims of the apparatus claims 26-27, respectively. Therefore, they are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to the apparatus claims 26-27.

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Regarding claims 66-69, they are method claims of the apparatus claims 30-33, respectively. Therefore, they are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to the apparatus claims 30-33. It is noted that Cortjens teaches that the camera control system is a computer which can download programs stored in respective recording medium.

Regarding claims 72-73, the subject limitation in these claims can be found in claims 1-2, respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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8. Claims 5-8, 22-25, 41-44, and 58-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cortjens et al. (US #5,568,183) in view of Kawai et al. (JP # 4-302587).

As to claims 5-8, Cortjens '183 teaches that if an action of depicting a segment from right to left, from left to right, from bottom to top or from top to bottom on the display surface of said display means, then the output means outputs a command for leftward pan, rightward pan, upward tilt or downward tilt control, respectively of the camera (col. 14, line 55 - col. 16 line 56). However, claims 5-8 differ from Cortjens in that the claims further require that these pan and tilt commands are output from the output means according to the length of the segment. The limitation is well known in the art as shown in Kawai. In the same field of endeavor, Kawai '587 teaches a video camera control system for controlling a video camera (4) (see Fig. 1) wherein the commands for controlling the camera are input via a mouse 9 on a window 7 of a screen 6 (see the translated copy of Kawai on pages 2-4). In figures 4-5, Kawai further teaches that the window has segments from A to I, wherein the pan and tilt commands for controlling the camera 4 are outputted according to the length of these segments (see pages 5-7). In light of the teaching from Kawai, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the camera control system taught in Cortjens by outputting upward and downward pan/tilt commands according to the length of the segment so as allow the user to specifically designate the pan and tilt amounts using a mouse on a display device.

As to claims 22-25, the subject limitation in these claims can be found in claims 5-8, respectively.

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Regarding claims 41-44, they are method claims of the apparatus claims 22-25, respectively. Therefore, they are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to the apparatus claims 22-25.

Regarding claims 58-61, they are method claims of the apparatus claims 22-25, respectively. Therefore, they are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to the apparatus claims 22-25. It is noted that Cortjens teaches that the camera control system is a computer which can download programs stored in respective recording medium.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 11-12, 17, 28-29, 34, 47-48, 53, 64-65 and 70 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

10. **Any response to this office action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry)

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(for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA.,
Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Ngoc-Yen Vu** whose telephone number is (703) 305-4946. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Wendy Garber**, can be reached on (703) 305-4929.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

NYV
09/26/2001



Ngoc-Yen Vu
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2612